

# THE STAR'S WORKSTATION COMPUTING & HIGH TECH NOVELTIES

## Next Week:



\* The battle of the hand-held consoles.

\* Apple's new PowerBooks hit the market.

## Washington researcher crusading for applications for Virtual Reality:

### Real life simulation

A UNIVERSITY of Washington computer guru, Tom Furness, has started a "virtually" new society in Seattle, USA, called The Virtual World Society, in the hope that its members will donate enough money to fund affordable, real-world applications for the super-secret, high technology research he's been doing for the past three years.

Using low-level lasers and lenses, Furness can transmit information to the retina of a human eye, tricking the brain into believing that the eye is seeing something that isn't actually there.

Headphones designed in his lab also produce three-dimensional rather than stereo sound, in effect making computer-generated sound "real."

Furness said that he operates on a \$1 million annual budget, funded by the state and a consortium of supporting companies such as Boeing, Ford Motors Co., American Express, Microsoft Corp. and US West Communications. "Science lenders want our technology, but it's expensive," said Furness, who estimated that a school would need \$150,000 worth of equipment for virtual reality displays that could, for example, spare the lives of millions of frogs by teaching biology students to dissect on a computer screen.

"We'd like to get the cost down to \$10,000," he said. In effect, he's making an appeal to two million interested investors to spend \$25 a year so that he can boost

his annual budget to \$50 million. Donors and the press can learn more about the society by contacting Furness through the UW's Human Interface Technology Laboratory, where he recently revealed interesting facts about high school students participating



in a scientific experiment in which they designed their own worlds using virtual reality software.

As promising as his research is, Furness mentioned that corporate donations have only trickled in because companies consider research donations to be a luxury in a recession. He said that virtual reality cannot become a near-term, practical reality unless more can be spent on the research needed to perfect it. Corporate support "has not been too wonderful," he said. "When it comes to biting the bullet in funding in a recession, the money's just not forthcoming."

With funding, Furness promises all sorts of practical applica-

tions. He said that a few architects have already used it in Japan, to show prospective home buyers how a particular design would look.

He also mentioned that American Express is investing in the lab so that travel agents will someday be able to take vacationers on a "virtual trip", allowing them to see their European hotel room before they actually arrive.

"Someday," he said, "virtual reality will make home entertainment as we know it virtually obsolete."

Once perfected, the laser technology will be reduced to a computer chip mounted on \$500 glasses which, combined with the headphones, will "allow you to recreate your very own IMAX theater in your living room." To gamers, it provides the possibility of creating the feeling of touching objects in a 3D world as part of, say, a role-playing adventure game. VR arcade machines are already available and have been received with much enthusiasm.

So far it is all just a pipe dream. But it's a dream that those few who have been exposed to seem to greatly enjoy.

Seattle will be hosting the world's first virtual reality symposium in September 1993. Furness dreams that Seattle will become the virtual reality center of the world. "I know one thing," he said. "All the people leave this lab with smiles on their faces." His hope is that a few more of them leave with a few less dollars in their wallets. ■

## INTERFACE BY ZEID NASSER

### Cut throat opinions

"YOUR NEWSPAPER doesn't seem to be very enthusiastic about Microsoft. Is it that you sympathize with AlAlamiah?" asked a friend of mine after following the Workstation page for some time. Another thought we "like Microsoft too much." These and other comments have become common for myself and my colleagues since AlAlamiah and Microsoft's "disagreements" began last year.

The conflict between the two companies has led both to a muscle-flexing competition in the local and international press. The battle has taken on a ridiculous turn where computer and business writers were classified as either "pro-Microsoft" or "pro-AlAlamiah". In effect many writers were perceived to be taking sides. If you were involved somehow, what would you do?

Microsoft is a giant, no doubt. It's already booting other companies out of the market. Just look what Microsoft Excel is doing to Lotus 1-2-3 in the spreadsheet market. According to some estimates, one million companies have switched to Excel already.

Recently, we were told that the IBM OS/2 operating system has already sold 1 million copies. This figure is good but when compared to 14 million sold so far of only Windows 3.1, the number loses its glimmer.

Statistics indicate that Microsoft is on top, and will remain there for some time. It would be wise, then, for computer pundits like us to defect to the "Microsoft camp", wouldn't it? Wrong guess! People should come to terms with the fact that computer journalism is not in the business of glorifying certain products, but aims at showing what's good and what's bad for consumers.

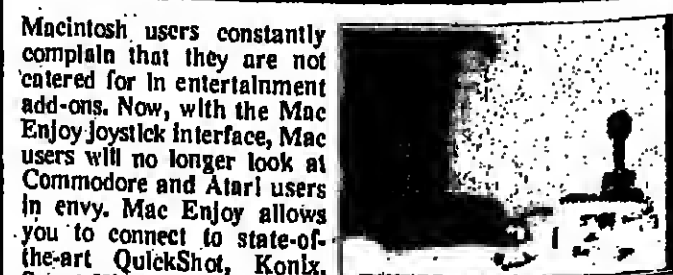
When a product as controversial as Microsoft Windows gets involved in multi-million dollar lawsuits, it is inevitable that computer writers will be sucked into the soggy affair and appear to be taking sides when they are simply presenting their reading of the issue.

A very sensitive situation was created by the Microsoft/AlAlamiah debate regarding the development of Arabic Windows 3.1, which is a very important product with lots of sales potential. AlAlamiah claims that its programmers, who fled Kuwait, made this Microsoft product come to life after they were previously working on a Sakhr Windows Arabization kit for AlAlamiah. Then, allegations that Microsoft developed the product in Israel started adding a whole new dimension to the problem, causing a lot of confusion in the computer press. According to Microsoft they have all the necessary documents to prove that this allegation is false, still it is a rather worrying fact.

Call it patriotism or pragmatism, I'm not very fond of the idea of a multi-national giant like Microsoft squashing Arab competitors. However, I don't approve of the methods followed by AlAlamiah in going to the Arab Boycott Bureau and filing an unlikely case against Microsoft, which could spell disaster for the Arab computing world. I'll say it again, Arab users cannot afford to lose Microsoft's Arabic support for its products since there still isn't a strong Arab-produced alternative.

It would also be a disaster if, one day, we managed to produce the alternative but were faced with an unbreakable Microsoft monopoly on the Arabization market. Think about the economic implications of that possibility.

This page will continue to offer a balanced coverage of legal and practical arguments and will present varied opinions, but that should not mean that we have adopted these opinions. Commercial suicide, you say? I think not, this is what journalism is all about. ■



Macintosh users constantly complain that they are not catered for in entertainment add-ons. Now, with the Mac Enjoy joystick interface, Mac users will no longer look at Commodore and Atari users in envy. Mac Enjoy allows you to connect to state-of-the-art QuickShot, Konix, Speed King, Quick Joy sticks and other 9-pin game controllers.

Mac Enjoy by Atec should put a kick back into gameplay on your Macintosh. Connection is simple and installation is made possible by a control panel enabling your system to accept the joystick. Alternatively, you can mount it on your system so that it boots automatically. ■

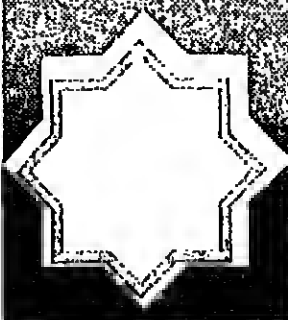
AX - 1100 (8086)  
AX - 2100 (286)  
AX - 3100 SX (20MHz)  
AX - 3300 (33MHz)  
100% IBM compatible

Jordan Computer Center

SUMEISANI  
TEL. 679616 / 679626

The Star  
JORDAN'S POLITICAL, ECONOMIC  
AND CULTURAL WEEKLY

# The Star



Jordan's political, economic  
and cultural weekly

AMMAN, 12 — 18 NOVEMBER 1992, VOLUME 3, NUMBER 34

Trust Aramex  
with your urgent  
parcels and documents.

The fastest, most reliable  
and most efficient courier service

Call 664590

ARAMEX

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Jordanians  
support  
King's call  
for human  
rights  
center

The Star  
Jordan's political, economic  
and cultural weekly

Congratulates  
His Majesty  
King Hussein  
on his  
birthday

Le Jourdain  
Supplément en français du Star

■ Pages 12 & 13  
in this week's

THE STAR'S  
WORKSTATION  
COMPUTING & HIGH TECH  
NOVELTIES

■ GITEK brings  
goodies  
■ The battle of the  
hand-held consoles

After the verdict in Al Nafeer case

## House to call for a retrial



ARAB BANK

Presents its best wishes

To

His Majesty King Hussein  
on his birthday



## Microsoft Windows for Workgroups in the Middle East

MICROSOFT HAS launched its long-awaited Windows For Workgroups operating system in the Middle East, paving the way for easy information sharing and working together.

With built-in networking, electronic mail scheduling facilities and file and printer sharing, Windows For Workgroups 3.1 offers high user flexibility from small companies to large corporate environments.

Windows for Workgroups will be on show at the GITEK computer exhibition in Dubai this month, which is the largest show

of its kind in the region. A fully bi-lingual system will be available early next year.

Microsoft Middle East has been recently established with its headquarters in Dubai, in a move to underline the American firm's commitment to the region. Mr. Charles Allen, General Manager for Microsoft Middle East, said that all major new products, including Windows for Workgroups, were being made available in the Middle East at the same time as the USA.

"With a product like Windows for Workgroups, we don't want to

keep our Middle East customers waiting," said Mr. Allen. "When people see what this product can do, they're going to wonder how they ever lived without it," he added.

Already, more than 100 independent software and hardware companies have developed products that take advantage of features provided by Windows For Workgroups, and 20 computer manufacturers including Compaq, Zenith, HP and AST have signed agreements to pre-install the Microsoft product. We'll be giving you a full review of this package in the near future. ■



Prices: Jordan: JD 250, Egypt: LE 100, Kuwait: KD 400, Saudi Arabia: SR 300, Qatar: QR 300, UAE: DR 300  
Subscriptions: (annual) Jordan JD 12, Arab countries US\$ 75, W. Europe US\$ 150, USA & Canada US\$ 200.

The Star  
JORDAN'S POLITICAL, ECONOMIC  
AND CULTURAL WEEKLY





# JORDAN

## WEEK

An unconventional report on  
Jordanian news and views

### Sales tax to hurt consumers, Obaidat says

Jordanians have been reacting to reports that the government will soon impose a sales tax (VAT) on all purchases. The President of the Consumer Protection Society, Dr Mohammad Obaidat, said that while the society was not against the imposition of the tax, it is worried about its effects on the Jordanian consumer. He told *Ad Dustour* newspaper that the purchasing power of most Jordanians during the last four years had decreased and that the new tax will mean a further rise in the cost of living. Dr Obaidat said that in most countries where the sales tax was introduced, wage increases were also made.

He said the new tax will generate an estimated JD 200 million annually for the Treasury and that this means the government should be able to introduce suitable increments in wages.

He also questioned the government's ability to collect the taxes from merchants, to whom consumers will pay the sales tax. Dr Obaidat said the new tax will have a negative effect on national industries.

Meanwhile, sources talked about an agreement between the IMF and the government to lower customs on imported cars. Unofficial sources predicted the highest customs rate on imported cars to be no more than 100 percent, whereas now it exceeds 400 percent.

### Czech. trade mission in Amman

A Czechoslovakian trade delegation representing 13 companies and 85 factories involved in the textile industry arrived in Amman this week. The delegation arrived to

participate in the Czechoslovakian Textile Week in Jordan and Lebanon, which opened on 10 November and will run until 15 November at the Regency Palace Hotel.

### Abu Odeh calls for new Council set-up

Jordan's permanent envoy to the United Nations Mr Adnan Abu Odeh has called for a review of the composition of the Security Council, so as to be more representative of new international realities. Delivering Jordan's response to the UN Secretary General's "Agenda for Peace" report, Mr Abu Odeh warned against the danger and cost of resorting to the provisions of chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which sanctions the use of force to settle disputes. He said all efforts should be spent to settle disputes peacefully, as specified in chapter 6 of the Charter.

### A bright vision for Aqaba-Gaza ports

Jordan's transport experts are placing high hopes on the future of a small fishing harbor in the occupied Gaza Strip. *Al Quds* newspaper reported this week. It quoted informed Jordanian sources as saying that the Gaza port will play an important role in exports and imports for both Jordan and the Palestinians. They said that the Palestinians will use the Aqaba port for their east-bound exports, while Jordan will use Gaza for west-bound exports. In both cases, the two sides will not have to pay the Suez Canal fees,

which means that transport costs will drop by 50 percent. The paper said this prospect will enable both sides to establish a viable and competitive maritime fleet. Jordan now owns two commercial vessels.

But before this can happen huge investments in Gaza's infrastructure, such as roads and electricity along with port facilities are needed, the paper quoted the Jordanian sources as saying. Gaza port is currently a small fishing harbor on the Mediterranean Sea. *Al Quds* said a Jordanian working paper on the future of the region's ports was submitted during the peace negotiations.

### Convicted killers sentenced to death

The Grand Criminal Court has sentenced Subhi Yousef Al Sukar to death by hanging for the premeditated murder of Dr Hamed Al Ghawad, regional director of UNESCO, in Amman last year. Two other people were injured in the incident, when Sukar, the victim's driver, barged into a meeting room and shot his Sudanese boss over personal differences.

The court also sentenced Jamal Al Qaisy to death by hanging for the murder and rape of 16-year-old boy in Aqaba last year.

### Arab writers to meet in Amman

Egypt will not be represented in the Federation of Arab Writers conference which will be held in Amman next month. Egypt's membership was suspended after

## FOR THE RECORD

By Ahmad Shaker

The government has decided to terminate all development projects along Aqaba's coastline until a special ministerial committee announces its recommendations. The private sector has submitted applications to build a number of tourist projects on the southern coast of Aqaba, estimated to be worth more than JD 10 million.

Informed sources within the government have denied reports that the government of Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker will submit its resignation or will be re-shuffled soon. The sources said ministers who wish to run for parliamentary elections next year will resign in May. Elections will take place between 8 July and 8 August, the sources said.

Ministry of Transport sources have said that Ports Authority losses this year are expected to reach JD 10 million because of a drop in cargo traffic. Losses from a drop in the number of passengers were estimated at JD 1 million.

Speaker of the Lower House Dr Abdel Latif Arabyyat has accepted an invitation from the People's Congress in Cuba. Dr Arabyyat will make the visit, the first of its kind, in February next year.

A Jordanian press delegation headed by the president of the Press Association Mr Suleiman Qdali will pay a visit to Iran at the end of this month.

The General Director of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. (JPMC) Mr Thabet Al Taher will deliver a paper on the future of the phosphate and fertilizer industry in Jordan at the World Phosphate and Fertilizer Producers Conference, which will open in Rome next Tuesday.

The government's proposed five-year plan proposes that the private sector be allowed to build and operate new roads and highways in the Kingdom in return for toll fees.

The government will announce new regulations to reduce duty on all construction vehicles used by registered contractors including trucks, pick-ups, tankers and spare parts for these vehicles.

Telecommunications Corp. sources have revealed that the corporation plans to install 285,000 new numbers by the year 2000. Seven thousand new numbers will be installed next year, and about 4000 in 1995.

It signed the Camp David accords with Israel. Delegates from Iraq, Lebanon, Algeria, UAE and Yemen have confirmed their participation in the meeting, which is being hosted by the Jordanian Writers Federation. Federation President Mr Fakhr Kawaar told Reuters that the Jordanian government will support the conference and the 19th Arab

Poetry Festival, which will be held at the same time, by covering all expenses. Other delegates from Morocco, Kuwait, Tunis, Bahrain and Palestine are also expected to participate, Mr Kawaar said.

### CB lifts restrictions

The Central Bank has revoked all restrictions on non-resident foreign currency accounts and has raised the ceiling for the amount of foreign currency that residents can take out of the Kingdom to JD 20,000 instead of JD 10,000. The bank said these measures were taken as part of its policy to relax restrictions and because of its confidence in the Jordanian economy.

Meanwhile, Deputy Central Bank governor Mr Michael Mulla will head a delegation that will negotiate with the Paris Club of Nations on rescheduling Jordanian foreign debts.

The delegation will visit Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom between 22 November and 4 December. The government also approved a draft agreement to reschedule Swedish loans to Jordan.

### Today's new revolution Contact lenses you wear and throw away

IF YOU'RE one of the many millions of people who wear contact lenses, you probably can't imagine life without them. Even the need to clean the lenses and to be careful that you don't lose them is worth it for all the advantages.

But now imagine contact lenses that you don't have to clean. SeeQuence contact lenses are designed to be worn just once. Whether it's a couple of hours for a game of tennis, a dinner party, or for a whole day, when you take them out you simply throw them away in the bin.

There's another bonus. SeeQuence lenses are approved for overnight wearing. So long as your physician checks that your eyes are suitable, you can sleep in the lenses for a night or two, and then throw them away.

### Comfort and Quality

SeeQuence contact lenses are the result of over 20 years of continuous research and development — starting in the early Seventies when Bausch & Lomb introduced the world's first soft contact lenses. The materials and manufacturing processes used by Bausch & Lomb are the most tested and well proven in the world with the major emphasis on good long term eye health and easy wearing comfort. The company also has a reputation for maintaining the highest quality standard in the industry.



682-642

Jordan Hot-line

24 hours

It's free

It's a short cut for  
information

Hotels, Rent-a-Car,  
Restaurants,  
Entertainment...

After the court's verdict

## House to appeal for a retrial of deputies

AMMAN (Star) — The sensational tribunal of the four defendants accused of belonging to an illegal militant group, *Shabab Al Nafar Al Islami*, was concluded Tuesday when the State Security Court sentenced two Lower House deputies, Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarash, each to 20 years with hard labor. Two co-defendants, Ahmad Ayoubi and Abdul Hamid Idkedek were each sentenced to 10 years with hard labor.

In a two-hour session, the 13th since the trial began two months ago, presiding judge Lt. Col. Yousef Faouri, who headed a three man panel, announced that the court had reduced the sentences of each of the deputies from the death penalty to imprisonment because the two men had no precedent and because the weapons and explosives found in their possession had not been used.

The court convicted the four men for belonging to an illegal armed group plotting to overthrow the regime and for possessing explosives and weapons. It found the deputies, who were arrested last August, not guilty of other charges including instigation through writing and speeches to topple the government, and of undermining Jordan's relations with Iraq. Mr Shbeilat was cleared of slandering His Majesty and was found not responsible for slandering members of Parliament.

In the 49-page verdict, Judge Faouri said that terms were also reduced for Ayoubi and Idkedek because they confessed and "expressed regret and because they had facilitated the work of the court." The two men had pleaded guilty to belonging to the group and to possessing explosives, but denied that their objective was to topple the regime or use violence inside Jordan. Their lawyer maintained that their aim was to fight the Israeli occupation through armed struggle.

Shbeilat and Qarash, who were handcuffed and taken out of the courtroom after sentencing, maintained all along that they were not guilty and had refused to give statements to the military prosecutor general. According to sources, both men decided to end their two-week old hunger strike after the end of their trial.

The judge said the court decided not to accept the testimony of a secret Syrian witness named as "Yassin Ramadan Yassin" because in the judge's own words, the witness "lacked credibility". The witness, who appeared in a closed session, testified to delivering 300,000 German marks to Mr Shbeilat from the Iranian prime minister's office. It was the testimony of this witness that prompted the defense panel for deputies Shbeilat and Qarash to walk out in protest on 17 October.

Since then the court appointed lawyers for the two men, who in their closing statements last week called on the court to acquit their clients.

In spite of the defense lawyers' objection to the testimonies of both Ayoubi and Idkedek against Shbeilat and Qarash, Judge Faouri said that the testimonies



Shbeilat



Qarash

and confiscated documents provided enough evidence to prove that the two deputies were in fact in charge of the illegal group.

Under the law of the State Security Court, verdicts cannot be appealed, but the Prime Minister can commute the sentence or order a retrial.

While the Marka courthouse was crowded, only two deputies were present. But as soon as the verdict was made a number of deputies met at the office of Lower House Speaker Abdel Latif Arabyyat, who told reporters that since the House was not in session at the moment there is little to be done. But he added that deputies will meet to decide which legal and constitutional measures to take.

He hinted that the current drive is towards asking the Prime Minister to order a retrial of the two deputies.

According to article 86 of the Constitution, the Prime Minister should inform the House of measures taken against any of its members. But the seats of the two convicted deputies will not be considered vacant unless two-thirds of the deputies vote to drop their membership, which seems unlikely at this stage. Insiders believe the House will not put the matter to a vote and that the two deputies will remain members, from a theoretical standpoint at least, since both men would have lost their right to be deputies in accordance with article 70 of the Constitution. Accordingly, no by-elections will be held to replace Shbeilat and Qarash.

Snoures have said that the King can issue a special pardon or reduce the sentence, but for the record of the two deputies to be cleared a general pardon law must first be issued and passed by Parliament.

A group of lawyers associated with the Arab Organization for Human Rights have prepared a report in which they have itemized incidents of "violations of the rights of Laith Shbeilat" during his arrest and trial, including illegal wiretapping and prevention of private counseling between Shbeilat and his lawyer and the testimony of the secret witness.



Jordanians crowd before the courthouse on Tuesday

## Mitterrand to discuss peace process with King

AMMAN (Star) — French ambassador to Jordan Mr Denis Bauchard has said that a FF80 million soft loan agreement will be signed during French President Francois Mitterrand's two day visit to Jordan later this month. Speaking to the press on Tuesday, the diplomat added that Mr Mitterrand will visit the Kingdom at the invitation of His Majesty King Hussein, signifying the deep economic, political and cultural ties between the two countries. The two leaders will discuss the peace process.

Mr Bauchard also said that other agreements on cooperation in various fields will be signed during Mr Mitterrand's visit between 27 and 28 November. The French president will visit Israel before coming to Jordan.

The ambassador reiterated France's general principles regarding the peace process. He said his government supports a settlement on the basis of UN resolution 242 and international law, the right of Palestinians to self-determination and the importance of a comprehensive settlement in the region.

He praised the present Israeli government for ending Israel's objections in an expanded UN and European role in the current peace process. But he said that France remains committed to a major role for the United Nations in the peace talks. Mr Bauchard said that Jordan and France have almost identical positions on the peace process.

He added that France considers Jordan as an important player in any Middle East settlement. He did not confirm if Mr Mitterrand was bringing specific ideas on how to move the peace process.

Mr Bauchard also said that France was keen on keeping the momentum of the peace talks going during the transition from the Bush to the Clinton administration.

### The Philadelphia International Hotel

In Association with Performance International  
and PW Productions  
Proudly Present

Christopher McHale

In the hilarious

Smash Hit West End comedy

### AN EVENING WITH GARY LINEKER

Designed by Richard Dwyer

by Arthur Smith & Chris England

Directed by Tony Croxall

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

"A winner all the way" Daily Telegraph

Austrian Airlines now offers two weekly flights from Amman to Vienna. With immediate onward connections to all major European cities.

dep Amman	arr Vienna
Tue, Thu 12.15 hrs	17.00 hrs

Austrian Airlines

Shmeissl, Abdulhamid Shraif St.

P.O.Box 1803 Amman

Tel. 68 45 28, 68 45 78, 68 70 28, 63 62 32

Welcome To  
AUSTRIAN  
AIRLINES



In response to King's call

## Intellectuals support human rights center

By Kate Daniels  
Star Staff Writer

WITHIN THE text of the speech delivered by His Majesty King Hussein last week lay the foundation stones for the Jordan of the future. Within the overall framework of his drive towards democratization, the King touched on the three major principles behind his new discourse: Freedom, pluralism and respect for human rights.

Perhaps most pioneering was his suggestion that a center for the study of democracy and human rights in the Arab world be established, a so-far unprecedented call from any head of government.

His suggestion has prompted an enthusiastic response amongst human rights advocates and activists in the Kingdom, who see this move as setting Jordan apart from the traditionally totalitarian ideologies of the factions that rule the region.

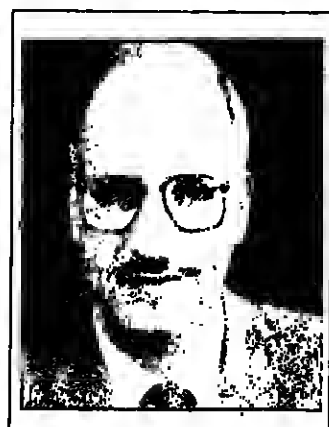
The fact that the call for such a facility came directly from the King himself was afforded particular significance. Dr As'ad Abdel Rahman, director general of the Abdel Hamid Shoman Foundation, described the King as being among the first to bestow legal recognition on the idea of establishing a center for the study of human rights.

"I think it is a superb idea that would definitely benefit both Jordan and the Arab world," he said. "It is a great thing for a sensitive leader to feel the pulse of the masses and to swim with the current of history into the future."

Dr Sayyed Yassin, Secretary General of the Amman-based Arab Thought Forum, believes that the call for the establishment of such a center is an indicator of His Majesty's desire that Jordan be "a model of democracy" for the Arab world. He also remarked that the King's message represents the first instance of di-



Dr Abdel Rahman



Dr Sweiss

alog between intellectuals and the head of Jordanian government about this long-neglected topic.

But local journalist and human rights specialist Dr Sulaiman Sweiss contended that His Majesty's interest in human rights has been long established. "He has been addressing human rights issues through his speeches and declarations for two or three years now," he said. "Last January, in an interview with *Le Figaro*, he discussed the need for an Arab charter for human rights. This is a very important proposition, and would be an official way of tackling the human rights issues of the Arab world."

Dr Sweiss said he was "very encouraged" by the King's proposal, outlining its importance in the context of "extensive human rights violations" occurring in the region. He added, however, that "the theoretical framework of the idea of human rights is as yet unclear," and that it must be thoroughly studied in accordance with the region's cultural and socio-political dictates.

Human rights advocates hope that the proposed center will be a think-tank of study, learning, translation and information dissemination, and that its foremost objective must be to determine an

be effectively recognized. "There is more to democracy than free elections," he said, adding that there is the real need for a model of democracy to be elaborated that relates to the ideology of a Muslim-Arab culture. "This in turn must also relate to an international concept," he added.

So far, Arab human rights establishments have been restricted to the *Maghreb*, with their spheres of study only occasionally venturing into the countries of the *Mashreq*. Three recognized centers include the Cairo-based Arab Organization for Human Rights, the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Tunisia and the judicial studies center of the General Union of Arab Advocates, again based in Cairo.

"Although ideally there should be no distinction between the countries of the Arab world, a specialized center based in Jordan could focus its activities on the *Mashreq*, thus filling a large void," said Dr Sweiss. He added, however, that the center's prime

concerns must be essentially Jordanian.

Those interested in a structure for the proposed center believe that valuable lessons can be learned from the examples set by established institutions such as Amnesty International. "We can benefit from the experiences of other centers, their mechanisms, institutions and organization," said Dr Abdel Rahman.

While Jordan is not the only Arab country currently witnessing a process of democratization, the possible establishment of such a center in Amman is seen as a definite contribution towards institutionalizing the whole process in the Arab world.

"The King has put forward a monumental proposition," said Dr Sweiss. "While purely at the speculative stage, it would be fitting for the center to be opened on 10 December, to show Jordan's recognition of the 44th anniversary of the World Declaration for Human Rights." ■

## Human rights across the cultural divide

By Pam Dougherty  
Special to The Star

HUMAN RIGHTS and women's rights are complex issues that can produce an emotive response, but Ms Marlene Lenz, Christian Democrat Member of the European Parliament, takes them calmly and with a gentle humor that wins the confidence of those around her.

Ms Lenz was in Jordan last week at the invitation of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation to attend the opening of the Hay Nazal Community Center seminar building. She has had a long connection with the Foundation, which in turn has been a major supporter of the Hay Nazal center and its sister center in Swe-

leh, so the opening was a meeting of interests and an opportunity for her first visit to Jordan.

The seminar building, which was opened by Her Majesty Queen Noor, has classrooms and an exhibition hall, and provides facilities for a kindergarten, a women's handicraft co-operative and after school activities for boys and girls.

As a long-term human rights activist, Ms Lenz is spokesperson on the subject for the Christian Democrats in the European Parliament. While in Jordan she also took the chance to familiarize herself with the local situation through meetings with members of parliament, human rights activists and representatives of women's groups.

She says she found a high level of interest in the subject at all levels, official and private, and that government policy was clearly to implement legislation that respects human rights, to follow-up on how the laws are applied and to ensure that people can complain if they need to.

Discussions with human rights activists brought up no major problems but, says Ms Lenz, what did come up constantly was the question of women's rights, an area in which she herself has long been active. She was impressed by the importance given to women's rights by the government, though she notes that this does not necessarily mean that legislation guaranteeing women's rights is applied in practice or that society accepts it.

On the issue of Islam and women's rights, Ms Lenz said it was striking that the Jordanian women she met all emphasized the need for a better understanding of the subject by Europeans. What they do not want, she says, is for the issue to be used as an instrument of colonization, and she feels there is clearly a need for more thorough discussion between the two sides.

In practice, Ms Lenz does not see a qualitative difference between the European and Jordanian situations on women's rights, more one of degree and social



Ms Marlene Lenz

context. She finds it interesting that many of Europe's early women's rights activists were single women who had to earn their own living, while in Jordan it is marriage that provides women with social status, financial security and a basis for social action.

She contrasts both situations with Africa, where having a child is the essential mark of a woman's status, whether or not she is married, and South America, where family life is disintegrating and women with children — married or otherwise — are the main actors in the women's rights arena.

But despite these social differences, Ms Lenz believes that in modern society all women face the same pressures and needs, such as access to education and a career, a place in the labor market, financial security and a search for an identity as an individual, not just a wife and mother.

She was pleased to see the emphasis that the Hay Nazal Center places on helping women to develop income generating skills, explaining that when women come together for training, or to discuss how to earn money and how to use it, they develop new confidence in themselves at all levels. She says it is a process she has observed in other countries, especially in South America, and one which is just as likely to occur in Jordan. ■

By Mohsin Alam

## After war, women still fight for rights

DUBAI — WHEN Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, there were widespread expectations that the crisis would do a world of good for women's rights in this highly traditionalist and enormously wealthy region. But, 20 months after the end of the occupation, nothing of the sort has happened, not even for those Kuwaiti women who made sacrifices and performed acts of bravery.

As far as Kuwaiti women are concerned, it looks like a clear case of forgotten promises. At the height of the crisis, Kuwaiti rulers in exile were lavishly praising their vital contribution to the freedom struggle in the occupied state. They vowed to grant women their due rights.

"Kuwaiti women have confirmed they are equal to their brothers in the resistance... I'm confident they will play a major role in our liberated Kuwait," Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Sabah declared at a 'people's congress' of Kuwaiti held in Jeddah in October 1990. Women's rights emerged as an important aspect of the political blueprint presented by the government-in-exile.

This was perhaps the most pleasing prospect for Kuwaiti women, who have received high education and performed excellently in various walks of life for at least three decades, but without enjoying the right to vote or be elected.

The first elected parliament came into being in 1963, but the process was disrupted with the legislature's dissolution in 1974 due to differences within the government. It was revived in 1985, but the National Assembly was disbanded a year later by the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, following its member's clash with cabinet ministers. In June 1990, an interim council was partially elected by an all-male electorate. This month's election of a new assembly was, again, without women as either voters or candidates.

Amid vociferous demands before and after the Iraqi invasion, for the restoration of parliament and for fresh elections, voices were raised by the educated elite for granting Kuwaiti women the right to vote and to be legislative candidates. But in recent times, demands for women's rights have weakened, and religious hardliners have opposed them.

Sheikh Jaber at one stage was said to be keen to reward Kuwaiti women for their "strength, endurance and ability to bear all kinds of maltreatment and difficulties" during the occupation. Last year, Sheikh Saad asked the interim council to discuss "with serenity" the feasibility of granting women the vote. Only four of the 12 legislators who spoke on the issue favored a political role for women. Others laughed at the idea, saying "the woman's natural place is home," asking for debate on "more important topics" or simply calling the discussion "too premature."

The government's lack of enthusiasm in the face of such strong male opposition and the negative trend itself have been blamed by women activists. "It seems everybody forgot those promises," Rasha Al Sabah, a member of the royal family and assistant director of Kuwait University, was quoted as saying.

Kuwaiti women can hold senior civil positions but cannot be ministers, legislators, diplomats, judges or prosecutors, whereas the suspended 1962 constitution prioritized justice, freedom and

equality to all citizens. "I don't think women in this country will get their political rights before the coming century," Rasha said. Women activists are pinning their hopes on being able to vote in the 1996 polls.

Elsewhere in the Gulf, the status of women was not as affected by the Gulf crisis as much as in Kuwait, although some women activists in Saudi Arabia did make an attempt to benefit from the prevailing nationalist atmosphere soon after the Iraqi invasion. The deployment of women soldiers in the desert was thought to have provided an impetus to that sentiment.

The one incident that caused ripples far and wide was the No-

vember 6, 1990, protest by some 50 women against the ban on driving by women in Saudi Arabia. They drove in 15 cars in Riyadh, on the main King Abdulaziz Highway, in defiance of a long-standing ban. The women were arrested, and the furore led to a legal ban on women driving cars.

It was in October last year that King Fahd personally intervened and ordered the women's reinstatement in their jobs, the return of their passports and financial compensation for the income lost as a result of their punishment. In late 1990, they were released on their husbands' written guarantees that their wives would never try to drive their vehicles again.

In other Gulf states notably the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Qatar, womenfolk are comfortably placed in public life, receiving higher education and facing no restriction in pursuing careers in professions, business and public and private-sector jobs. They can drive and move about freely; it is not unusual to see Arab women in a black veil or western dress driving large cars.

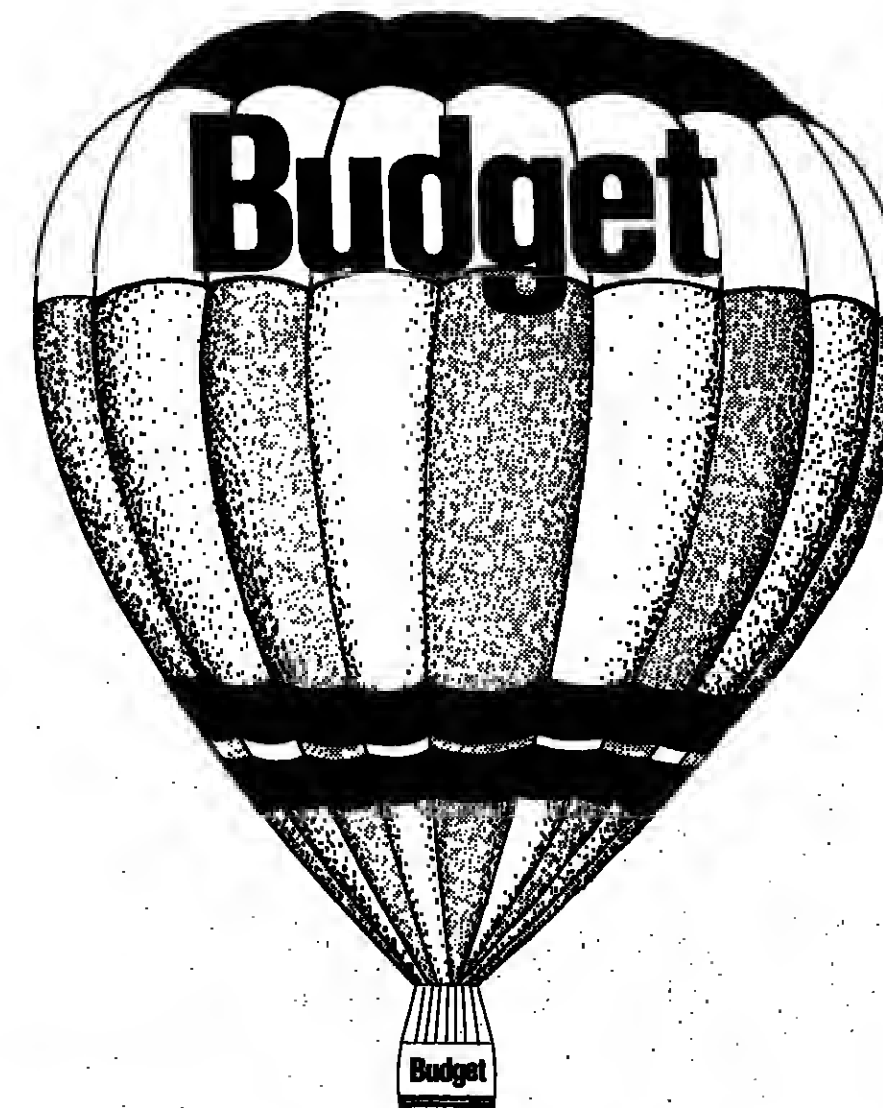
One exceptional spin off of the Gulf crisis pertaining to women has been the development in the UAE of a female unit in the armed forces. The 59-women unit, the first in the Gulf, completed its intensive training on June 18, 1991. Their graduation

at a major ceremony in Abu Dhabi, the capital, represented a pioneering effort in a sensitive field. This has been perhaps the most concrete manifestation of change in a society strictly opposed to sharp shifts in the transitional rule of Gulf women as family makers.

The whole debate has been dominated by women's duties in times of national crisis and how they and society can complement each other's efforts for mutual gain. But the inevitable implication has been the discussion of how much women can and should do and how far they can go within the parameters of religious sanctions.

Apart from this, there has been the marginal impact of the Gulf crisis on the status and life of the region's Arab women. Political rights and participation still remain a dream, and whatever progress women have made is the continuation of the almost natural course of huge oil incomes propelling the process of social and economic development across the board. ■

Academic File



# INTERNATIONAL

## THE WORLD'S LARGEST CAR RENTAL COMPANY

### U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMODITY IMPORT PROGRAM (CIP) ATTENTION: PRIVATE SECTOR IMPORTERS AND LOCAL BANKS

Financing is again available under USAID's Commodity Import Program (CIP). Private sector Jordanian importer of U.S. made items are approved for CIP Letter of Credit financing on a first-come, first-served basis.

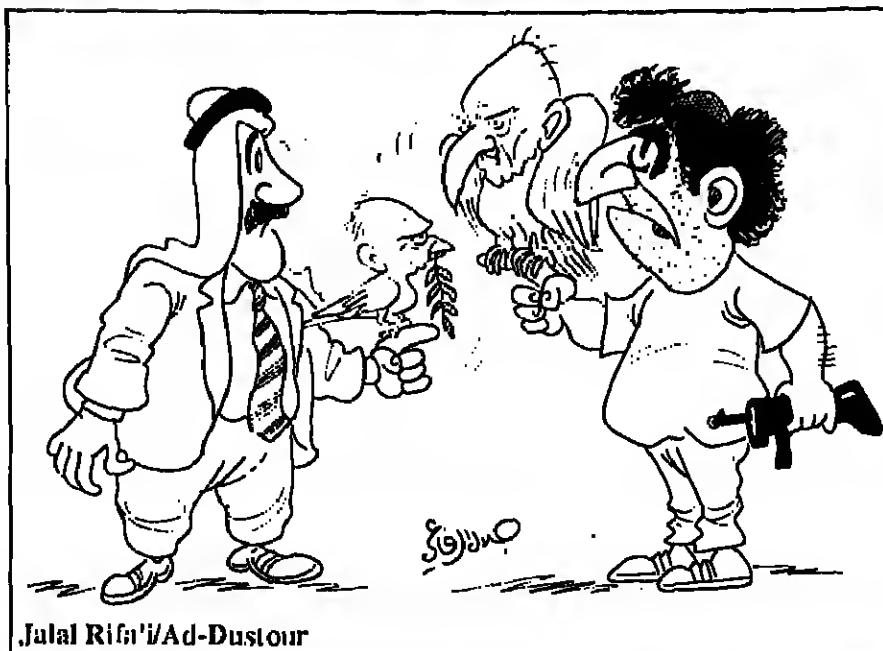
This financing is available at a minimum interest rate of approximately 7 percent, Jordan Dinars downpayment of 10 percent, and the balance payable in Jordan Dinars over periods as follows:

- 1- Up to two (2) years for raw materials.
- 2- Up to three (3) years for intermediate goods.
- 3- Up to five (5) years for capital goods.

To apply, importers should make applications to their local banks and request CIP financing.

For additional information, importers or banks may call USAID/Jordan at Tel No. 820101 and request to talk with CIP office Personnel (ext. 2627/2254).





Jalal Rifai/Ad-Dustour

## Our Say...

### Standing by our team

THIS WEEK'S strongly-worded criticism by the Muslim Brotherhood bloc in the Lower House of the so-called Jordanian-Israeli agreement, achieved at the end of the last round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington, is both untimely and reveals a shallow understanding of the nature of the Washington talks so far.

Notwithstanding the well-known position of the Islamic Bloc over the peace talks, the initial agreement between Jordanian and Israeli negotiators on a working agenda is not tantamount to a fully-fledged peace treaty between the two countries. It is ill-timed because Jordanians as a nation need to stand by their negotiators in order to give them moral as well as material support.

The peace negotiations, which began a year ago in Madrid, are not expected to yield immediate results. We know that the process will be long, arduous and even painful at times. While regional and global realities leave no pragmatic option for the Arab countries but to engage in negotiations with Israel, we are in agreement that UN resolutions and international law are the principle references of our team in Washington. We know that, and they know it too.

By accusing them of deviating from the government line and holding them accountable for going beyond their mandate, the bloc is assuming that our negotiators work independently of government supervision, and that they have concluded a deal with Israel at the expense of Arab rights. Both assumptions are false.

A working agenda is precisely what the term states. Besides, the initial agreement needs the endorsement of the Jordanian government before it can become official. And even then, the agenda sets broad headlines for the main issues that will be discussed among the interlocutors. It is only the beginning of a long period of negotiations that will cover the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Being against negotiations with Israel is one thing, but raising the flag every time our negotiators meet with their Israeli counterparts is something else. We are against any attempt to discredit members of the Jordanian delegation. They deserve our backing and so does our government, which has reiterated its long-standing position that it will not sign a bilateral peace accord with Israel at the expense of any other Arab party to the talks.

It is at this sensitive stage of negotiations that we must stand united behind our team. Those who reject the principle of negotiations have made their position clear, and we respect that. If and when Jordan reaches a draft agreement with Israel that could be the basis of a peace treaty, our Parliament will have the opportunity to study it and vote on it. We are miles away from reaching that phase of the peace process. True peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through negotiations. This process of negotiations aims at implementing UN resolutions, giving the Palestinian people their right to self-determination and repatriating those who were made homeless as a result of Israel's occupation of Arab territories.

We may be frustrated at times with the slow pace of negotiations and with Israel's attempts to wriggle out of substantive talks. But no one can deny that this is landmark in the history of the region. The whole world has a stake in reaching a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. We should increase the pressure on Israel not our own people. ■

# The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

An independent political, economic and cultural weekly, published every Thursday in Amman by Media Services International (Info-Media). Editorial & Advertising: Telephone 652380 Fax 648298, P.O. Box 9313, Amman - Jordan. Typesetting, layout and processing done exclusively on Apple Macintosh Desk-top publishing system. Images scanned on Hewlett Packard scanners.

Publisher

&

Editor-in-Chief

Osama El-Sherif

## Traveller's notebook

### An Occidental journey (3)

By Osama El-Sherif

THE MOST enduring observation I have of America is that it is a technology-driven society. Unlike the Middle East, where technology is a caricature of luxury limited to owning a 90-channel, five-system TV set, a sports car with built-in computer or a state-of-the-art satellite dish and receiver, technology in the United States is an essential ingredient of daily life, work, study, travel and entertainment.

Since necessity (or need) is the mother of invention, technology is seen as satisfying the needs of a highly sophisticated and developed culture. For an outsider, this hunger for technology can be perceived as a vicious circle, where new needs are created every day to replace those that have been satisfied. Technology introduces new ethics and alters existing values. It affects human relationships at every conceivable level, eventually becoming so ubiquitous that it stops serving as a means and becomes an end in itself.

On the streets of American metropolises businessmen travel in taxi cabs or walk to nearby restaurants carrying cellular phones. They make deals, sell or buy stocks and negotiate with clients as they eat, hail a taxi or ride in an elevator. Computers effectively run the whole continent, from subways to air traffic, stock markets, newspapers, defense systems, civil records, corporate dealings, money transfers, telecommunications....

What Americans interpret as a technological need, we in the less developed world would call a luxury. Or is it? Technology has helped to expose to outsiders the affluence of American and Western society. Our infatuation with the West has much to do with the elements of its affluence: the show-case of its successful economic achievements. It has to do with its technological edge as much as with its cultural supremacy. Living in our part of the world, we may not understand the necessities of Western societies, but once we have seen the affluence of the West, their needs in turn become our needs.

This is why we start to talk of the transfer of technology. But importing technology also means introducing the values that come with it. Technology is supposed to make life easier, work more productive and efficient, leisure time more fun, schools more educating, hospitals more advanced and people less vulnerable. But in the process of acquiring technology, a new culture begins to form, where new needs, ethics and, naturally, problems emerge.

Technology is not machinery and electronic gadgets, but a way of life that is intended to enhance or augment an existing one. It may also obliterate it. Should we "transfer" technology only when we recognize the need for it, or should we manufacture that need? And how do we then break the cycle of creating new needs that were never there before?

How also do we fill the cultural-technological chasm that separates us from the West without compromising our own "legitimate" needs as a developing society? And then how do we deal with the values that are attached to the technology we have imported? One disadvantage of technology is that once you have adopted it, you become dependent on it; you simply cannot live without it. How do we calculate the cultural cost-effectiveness of technology, and how can its cultural dimension be incorporated into our feasibility studies?

And finally, should we remain consumers of technology, or could we, one day,

create our own? Before we can even begin to tackle these questions, we must first, as Arabs, understand the cultural dimension of today's global economy.

Where do we fit in this world's socio-economic jigsaw puzzle? I kept asking myself this question as I found myself engaged in debates with publishers from Asia, Latin America, the United States, East and Western Europe.

Top priority to most publishers in their respective regions was the state of the global economy; their region's role and influence in inter-regional trade, hi-tech industries and regional markets. The Middle East did not figure much in these debates. We were the outsiders, the people who didn't fit, locked in our own introverted environment. Even as a market, the Middle East was by-passed. South East Asia's main interest was to do business with Western Europe, Latin America was concerned with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the European Community (EC) had its eyes on developments in Eastern Europe and on the troubled GATT negotiations with the United States. Eastern Europe itself was still trying to cope with the newly-introduced principles of free markets and capitalist values, and keeping the flow of Western investments pouring in.

The Middle East is not part of any one of these complex inter-relationships. It is true that we remain the source of the world's cheapest energy, but that's about it. Oil is no longer a political or an economic weapon. Its free flow is no longer threatened, now that America's hegemony over the Gulf is unrivalled. Besides, the West is now talking of the end of the Oil Century and the dawning of the Laser/Microchip Century, with emphasis shifting from the oil-hungry heavy industries to the energy efficient light industries. While this transition should take another three to five decades (just as Middle Eastern oil reserves dry up), industrialized countries are preparing for it today.

The Middle East has missed the first, second and third industrial revolutions of the last two centuries. While some Arab countries have made modest achievements in heavy and medium industries (such as Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Morocco), none has a clue of what hi-tech industries are about. Most of our so-called home industries are little more than under-licence assembly ventures. Therefore, we import most, if not all, of our raw materials, buy manufacturing plants and partially-finished products, package the final goods and sell them as national products.

The sad fact is that we have no research and development, no base for competitive industries, are unable to make use of our own raw materials — and have simply missed the boat.

Western politicians and economists talk of trade wars, global recession and the transfer of technology in a global manufacturing plant whose administration may be based in New York, but whose factories may be found in Bangkok, Santiago, Seoul and Bucharest.

I was especially intrigued by two Japanese publishers, who discussed their country's role in the global economy. In private conversation with the two men, I was told that Japan's miraculous transition from a feudal society, ravaged by the Second World War, into an economic giant, a major exporter and investor in less than four decades.

"It is true," one of them told me, "that we became a free market-capitalist society, but we retained the essence of our Japanese culture." Japan is part of the West when it came to its standing and performance in the global economy, but remains essentially Japanese. Its success story is uniquely Japanese.

Other countries in Asia and Latin America are reconciling culture with development with amazing results. It is taking place in Malaysia and Indonesia, both of which are Muslim countries and relativist newcomers to what is called the New Industrialized Countries (NIC) club. It seemed funny when I asked a Filipino friend why the Philippines has failed to join the NIC club although Thailand has,

Continued on page 7

Bill Clinton

## 'My commitment to Israel'

Editor's note: President-elect Bill Clinton spoke about his vision of US-Israel relations in a speech to American Jewish leaders in September. The speech is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

AMERICA and Israel share a special bond. Our relationship is unique among all nations.

Like America, Israel is a strong democracy, a symbol of freedom, an oasis of liberty, a home to the oppressed and persecuted. Yet in this world where the Cold War has ended, peace is still a long way away in the Middle East.

Israel is still surrounded by nations in pursuit of weapons of mass destruction; still at risk of Saudi attacks by Saddam Hussein, and now facing new, more advanced threats from Syria; still suffering the economic hardships of the Arab boycott; still waiting for an offer of peace from her Arab neighbors.

The current round of peace negotiations taking place in Washington offers the best chance in a decade of bringing lasting peace to the region. When I met with Prime Minister Rabin during his recent visit to the US, I made clear to him my determination to continue the peace process if elected. I want to be very clear about this: There will be no hiatus in the current negotiations.

This summer's elections in Israel have given the government a mandate to move forward, and Prime Minister Rabin has wasted no time beating new life into the negotiations.

He's agreed to stop all political settlement activity and shift the funds to spending on infrastructure and education in Israel. He's freed 800 Arab prisoners and reversed 11 deportation orders of Palestinians. He's pledged a gradual reopening of streets in what had been some of the most violent commercial and residential areas of the territories. He's eased restrictions on Arab laborers entering Israel.

Clinton with Rabin

Israel has reaffirmed its recognition of the UN resolutions that are the foundations of the peace process, and supported specifically applying them to the negotiations with Syria. And it now has under consideration a plan for full autonomy for the Palestinians that includes early elections. Now it is time for the other side to reciprocate.

I do not believe we ought to pressure Israel into making unilateral concessions in the peace process, as this (Bush) administration has tried to do. I believe we must stand by Israel in its historic effort to integrate hundreds of thousands of refugees into its society. And I believe the US should serve as a catalyst and an honest broker in the peace negotiations. For in the end, only Israel, the Palestinians and the Arab nations can make lasting peace with one another.

I think that we have to give this peace

process a chance to work. We have to nourish it; we have to support it; we have to maintain its continuity. It is time now to encourage the Arab states to reciprocate in some fashion for what the Israeli side has done. But I think the future course has to be charted within the context of this peace process, and I don't think the US should do anything that would run the risk of dislodging that. I still think we've got a chance to make it work.

The peace negotiations will no doubt take time, but there is a simple step the Arabs should have taken long ago: Ending their illegal boycott against Israel.

That boycott is economic warfare, and the war must end now. It is time the administration made it clear that the US will no longer turn a blind eye to this practice by putting an end to US government contracts with anyone who participates in the

Traveller's notebook

## An Occidental journey (3)

Continued from page 8

national products.

The sad fact is that we have no research and development, no base for competitive industries, are unable to make use of our own raw materials — and have simply missed the boat.

Western politicians and economists talk of trade wars, global recession and the transfer of technology in a global manufacturing plant whose administration may be based in New York, but whose factories may be found in Bangkok, Santiago, Seoul and Bucharest.

I was especially intrigued by two Japanese publishers, who discussed their country's role in the global economy. In private conversation with the two men, I was told that Japan's miraculous transition from a feudal society, ravaged by the Second World War, into an economic giant, a leader in hi-tech industries and major exporter and investor in less than four decades.

"It is true," one of them told me, "that we became a free market-capitalist society, but we retained the essence of our Japanese culture." Japan is part of the West when it came to its standing and performance in the global economy, but remains essentially Japanese. Its success story is uniquely Japanese.

Other countries in Asia and Latin America are reconciling culture with development with amazing results. It is taking place in Malaysia and Indonesia, both of which are Muslim countries and relativist newcomers to what is called the New Industrialized Countries (NIC) club. It seemed funny when I asked a Filipino friend why the Philippines has failed to join the NIC club although Thailand has,

and he said it was because "we're too westernized. We're the only country in South East Asia that has no Buddhist culture."

In his book "The Next Century", American journalist David Halberstam talks about Japanese work ethics on the factory floor, the Japanese emphasis on education, loyalty and creativity. Nothing could compare in what goes on in an American plant today.

A comment in Newsweek by Nobel Prize laureate Rigoberta Menchu recently caught my attention. The Guatemalan Indian activist said: "Peoples can develop, make science, technology and obtain goods of society without stripping themselves of their culture."

Could we, as Arabs, come to realize that our culture could actually be an asset in our quest to modernize and take our place in the emerging global economy? Can we draw from our cultural reservoir to find formulas that work as we tackle the cumbersome issues of modernization, the transfer and development of technology and their relations to our own social and political structures?

It would be worth our while to review the achievements of the past four decades. An objective analysis would come to the conclusion that our educational system is in jeopardy. Our universities are releasing half-literate graduates every year. Our school system has had only cosmetic changes. One can see it in the quality of education that our children receive daily. Employers complain that university graduates applying for jobs can barely spell their names correctly. Arabs, in general, don't

like to read, and graduates rarely keep up with the developments in their own field of specialty after graduation.

We have to review the role of governments in steering economic growth, the role of the private sector — which is sanctified by our press but has actually done more harm than good in most cases — and in positive development at the national level.

But what do we do after that? Do we fight western values and shut ourselves in, or do we open up, like Egypt did under Sadat, and hope the West will be kind to us? Do we do nothing? My premise has always been that we in the Arab world have more in common with the East than we do with the West.

Our cultural and intellectual focus has so far concentrated on the achievements and breakthroughs of the West, therefore the West has become our model for development. But metaphorically speaking, it is from the East that we should be learning. The examples of Singapore, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Korea and Taiwan are worth studying — not copying. We cannot import ready-made solutions to our mounting problems like we do our cars and TV sets.

In the end, we have to be convinced that our survival as an entity comes from our survival as a culture. And like all living cultures, ours can not survive unless it lives within us. The task of resurrecting our culture is a tremendous one. We can't afford to live in the past anymore. ■

End of series

boycott. That is why I support Senator Al Gore's initiative to prohibit Defense Department contracts with any foreign companies that participate in the Arab League's boycott against Israel.

I would strongly encourage and urge the Saudis to end the boycott. I think that would be the best gesture the Arab nations could make to respond to the unilateral gestures that Prime Minister Rabin has made. I think it would do an unbelievable amount of good to clear the air and bring the parties to focus on the specific issues that we all know will be tough to work out. So I will strongly, strongly urge them to end the boycott.

We need to promote action to stop the spread of dangerous missiles in the Middle East, and a strong international effort and tough sanctions to keep weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of nations like Iran, Iraq, Syria and Libya.

Since the Gulf war, the Middle East has been a weapons bonanza. The US has sold a lot of weapons there, and so have other nations. I am concerned about that, which is one of the reasons I want to make sure that we don't do anything to upset the qualitative balance in the Middle East in any arms sales that might occur with the Saudis, and why I want to be very careful about what I say about that.

I do believe that there needs to be an aggressive effort focused on the Middle East, including joining with other nations to develop an international regime of non-proliferation on weapons of mass destruction, and also an effort among the major arms sellers of the world to try to reduce arms sales in volatile regions.

The problem, of course, is that many nations know that if they don't sell the weapons, someone else will. And many of the people who ask for these weapons, have been steady allies of the US. But I do believe that we have to make an urgent, urgent effort soon to develop a really strong regime against the spread of weapons of mass destruction, especially among dictators, and to try to reduce arms sales in the traditional arms. I am very concerned about it.

The US must not waver in the meantime in its financial, security and moral commitments to Israel. That is why I said early on in my campaign that it is in our nation's best interest to continue military and economic assistance, because this vital aid encourages long-term stability in the region and demonstrates the US commitment to Israel's security and sovereignty.

I am especially disturbed by the long-term outlook for the spread of weapons of mass destruction. It is very menacing. That means our commitment must include not only an effort to reduce this spread, but a reaffirmation of our strong commitment to maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge over its foes. The sight of children huddled in basements with gas masks during the Gulf war brought home to every American just how vulnerable Israel is, and just how volatile the region is.

Clearly, we must meet our security commitments to our coalition partners in the Gulf, but any of those actions must be taken in close consultation with the government of Israel, and any arms sales must not undermine our commitment to Israel's qualitative edge. As I have said repeatedly, any sale of F-15s to Saudi Arabia must only go forward in this context.

I believe we can and should provide for the adequate defenses of our coalition partners in the region in a way that does not threaten Israel's security. I would support the sale of some versions of the F-15s to Saudi Arabia, but we must not sell any offensive version of the F-15s to Saudi Arabia that could threaten Israel, tilt the military balance or erode Israel's qualitative military edge.

There is another threat to Israel that has gone long unaddressed. It is a threat that can weaken Israel militarily, economically and politically. It can hinder our ability to respond to crisis that may affect Israel. That threat is the weakening American economy. Without a growing economy, without a strong, stable and secure American middle class, America's commitment to Israel will always be under pressure. ■

This article is adapted from an address delivered to the B'nai B'rith annual convention on 9 September.





**Congratulations!!**  
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....  
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

## Magna Carta entertains the world

By Mary Denis  
Special to the Star

IN THE current pop music climate in Amman, when your ears are pierced by the metal and electric sounds of disco, rock, hip-hop, and a lot more, *MAGNA CARTA's* performance this week came as both a relief and a breath of fresh air, revitalizing you with purity, homogeneity and reflecting the group's classical pop style.

No big technical equipment, no electric guitars, no synthesizers. Just two singers and their acoustic guitars doing a wonderful job at creating a pleasant impact, a jolly, heart-to-heart interaction between the performers and the audience.

"We are for quality," says Linda Taylor, singer of *MAGNA CARTA*. "We put more emphasis on the quality and substance of the songs we play and sing, rather than on our own appearances." They say that they both aim at focusing on the theme, the lyrics and melody, without any external gimmicks.

*Magna Carta*, a well-known British pop acoustic-music group,

has been touring the region for several weeks with a stop-over in Amman, where the group gave a delightful performance at the Baccalureate School theater, organized by the National Music Conservatory in co-operation with the British Council and Royal Jordanian. Chris Simpson, guitarist and singer-songwriter of *Magna Carta*, summarized their visit: "Beautiful country, wonderful people."

A dynamic performer and entertainer, Chris remains very serious in his belief that acoustic guitar is timeless and is not confined to a certain 'time zone'. During *Magna Carta's* performance, relatively older and "suffer" people in the audience loosened up and joined in the revelry.

Chris composes his own songs based on his own lyrics. They are about people, times and places. "The situations I know personally. They are a vast part of my experiences," he says. "I like to express feelings, sadness, happiness and relations through my songs." Having had no formal music education, Chris is a natural. He does not read or write notes, he confesses, yet he is rated in a class



between J.J. Cale and Dire Straits' Mark Knopfler. His style of playing is also highly individual. Together with Linda, who has a warm and tuneful voice, they make a great team.

Linda says, "A musician is an artist, and performing is an art form through which the artist reaches his or her audience. When you sing, you paint a picture. We may sing the same songs every night, but we always paint a different picture."

According to Linda, a performer must use psychology in order to detect the general mood of the audience and act accordingly, taking the listeners in the right direction.

If one is interested in the history of British contemporary folk music, *Magna Carta* would be the best example of a music group which has gone through all the stages of "evolution". Starting more than two decades ago as a folk club music band, *Magna Carta* has had its ups and downs, but most of the time refusing to change its style with the trends in the modern world of music.

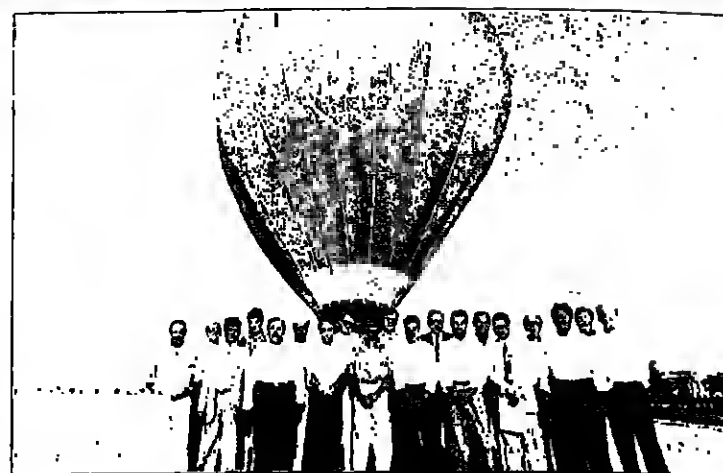
Although the group's line-up has changed many times, *Magna Carta* has stayed true to itself with Chris Simpson as the only original survivor. "In the '80s and early '90s I was depressed with it all," remembers Chris, "because acoustic guitar had almost disappeared and high technology had taken over." He thought that *Magna Carta* had also come to an end. But the eruption of the CD market in Europe and Britain has revived old classic pop albums that feature acoustic music, marking a new beginning.

Over 100 countries have been visited, 20 albums and 23 singles have been made. *Magna Carta* has made a full circle, according to Chris, and is going from strength to strength. At the moment, *Magna Carta* are working on their new album, due out at any time.

When one hears such enduring songs as 'Seasons', 'Airport Song' and 'Lord of the Ages', written by Chris many years ago and still played nowadays, one can unmistakably recognize them as timeless classics.



Members of the Specialized Nursing Education Institute during one of their meetings at the University of Indiana. Institute Director Huda Abu Raddah and head of the experts' team at the nursing development project between Jordan and USAID visited the university and discussed ways of developing cooperation. A delegation from the university will visit Jordan before the end of this year.



## Hotel Inter. Con. participates in the first hot air balloon event in Jordan

For the first time ever in the Middle East, Jordan will be hosting a hot air balloon rally from 14 till 17 November in Wadi Rum. The event will be launched on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's Birthday. The Ministry of Tourism, in co-operation with Royal Jordanian and the Jordan Armed Forces are organizing this spectacular event.

Wadi Rum, one of the most beautiful and breathtaking surrealistic desert locations in the world, and home to T.E. Lawrence of Arabia, has the ideal weather conditions for ballooning during the month of November, and with accommodation in five star tents laid out in traditional Bedouin style, provided by Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan, this event will have a high degree of local colors.

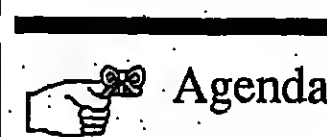
50 world top pilots will be competing for a \$10,000 prize and the King's Trophy with the title 'Champion of Champions'. Hotel Inter-Continental will be on location throughout this event; providing comfort and service for over 200 VIP guests in the middle of the desert.



Horizon Advertising and Communications held its network wide management meeting recently on the Greek island of Corfu. The meeting focused on client services with the theme: 'Citius, Altius, Fortius', the Latin Olympic motto that translates to 'Faster, Higher, Stronger'. "In consideration of the focus of the meeting," commented Rafe Sa'adeh, chairman of the Horizon network, "which was to increase our ability to service clients, I recognized just how competitive is the process of sustaining a client, as competitive as any high-powered sport. The goal of our meeting was to generate concrete ideas that will help us respond to client needs faster, to set our service goals higher, and to compete in our marketplace with an even stronger Horizon network."

Attending the meeting were Horizon managers representing all offices, including some new comers from the network's Paris liaison office and the expanding offices of Beirut and Kuwait. In addition to team members from Athens, Dubai, Jeddah and Amman.

"Conducting the meeting at an away from the office location in Corfu gave us a fresh perspective and got our creative juices flowing. But even with the allure of the famous Greek vacation site, it was all-business, with an emphasis not on talk, but on action-oriented brain-storm sessions," states Mr Gregory Tikhanoff, GM Athens. Mr Sa'adeh concluded, "As usual, our management meetings always leave us enthusiastic, with a revised sense of unity and with renewed ambitions to achieve our goals."



## Agenda

### THEATER

The Philadelphia International Hotel presents from 12 until 14 November the hilarious comedy 'An Evening With Gary Lineker'.

### FILMS

The Goethe Institute will be showing a movie Tuesday, 17 November entitled 'Endangered Species, Last Show On Earth'. The movie starts at 7:00 pm.

'Stevie' is the title of the British Council's featured film for this week, which is about the life of Stevie Smith, an international

ly respected author and radio personality. The film starts at 7:00 pm.

The American Centre presents its share of films this week, starting with 'Local Hero', which is to be shown on Thursday, 12 November. And also on Sunday, 15 November, 'Ruthless People' will be the featured movie. Both films start at 5:00 pm.

### EXHIBITIONS

Under the patronage of TRH Prince Ra'ad Bin Zaid and Princess Majda Ra'ad, the Jordanian Scandinavian Friendship Association is holding an 'Exhibition of Swedish Contemporary Art'. The opening will be on Monday, 16 November, at 6:00 pm at the Royal Cultural Centre.

## Presenting 'An Evening With Gary Lineker'

### Smash-hit comedy arrives in Amman



Actor Mark Fletcher

the British Isles, and he has played abroad in Holland, East Africa and California. Films in-

JORDAN'S THEATER-lovers will be delighted to know that yet another smash-hit performance from London's West End has arrived in Amman, this time playing at the Philadelphia International Hotel.

'An Evening With Gary Lineker', directed by Tony Cravitt, is coming directly to Jordan after rave reviews in the British capital. Showing tonight, Friday and Saturday, this award-winning hit comedy focuses on Britain's favorite sport and pastime: Soccer. Described as "a tribute to lovers of the game of football, and to all of those who have to live with them", the play promises to be a roaring and riotous success.

The play will be presented as an evening of dinner theater, and has been brought to Jordan by Silk Cut, Performance International Associated, PW Productions, Emirates Airlines and, of course, the Philadelphia International. Its cast features a host of established artists, some of them Britain's foremost entertainers.

Among them is Helen Griffin, who plays Monica, and who studied sociology and psychology and trained as a psychiatric nurse before deciding to exacerbate her neuroses by going into acting. She has worked with Welsh Theater group Theatre Gortlewin Morgannwg, Soapbox, Quicksilver, Loose Exchange, Theatre Venture, Made in Wales and Double Exposure. The latter involved the whole company, including a blind actor, using sign language as they performed.

In 1989, she took a one woman show, *Drawing the Devil on the Wall*, (loosely based on the life of the wife of Britain's infamous Yorkshire Ripper) to the Edinburgh Festival to great critical acclaim. It was later adapted for Helen for BBC Radio.

Recent theater work includes the highly acclaimed *Under Milk Wood*, which is scheduled to tour America and the rest of Britain in 1993.

Fellow actress Felicity Goodson, who plays Birgit, was trained at the Guildford School of Acting and went on to appear in repertory theater all over the UK. Parts have included Lynne in *Stepping Out* and Jack in *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Felicity has also appeared in many musicals including *Grease* and *Gadspell*, which also played at the Fortune Theatre in London's West End.

She is a member of the famous Players Theatre and has appeared with them in Old Type Music Hall and has also been Principal Boy in their pantomimes, playing both Prince Charming and Robin Hood.

In London she has appeared as Desdemona in *Othello*, Lady Percy in *Henry IV Part 1* and Olivia in *Twelfth Night*. She was also a member of the New Shakespeare Company in Regents Park. Co-star Edward Arthur, playing Ian, has enjoyed busy activity on both the stage and on film. In London he has played Peasblossom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Guildenstern in Lindy Anderson's production of *Hamlet* at the Theatre Royal Stratford East.

His work in repertory and regional theater has taken him all over

clude *The Great Gatsby*, *Moonlighting* (with Jeremy Irons) and *Marans from Outer Space*. On television he had the pleasure of working with Laurence Olivier and Katherine Hepburn in *Love Among The Ruins*.

The role of Dan is played by Liverpoolian Mark Fletcher, who trained at the Guildford School of Acting. After college he went straight into a world tour of Hamlet with the Old Vic Company. He also did a season at the Horse-shoe Theatre, where parts include John Lennon in *John, Paul, George, Ringo and Bert*, and Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing*. He also played Peter in *Jesus Christ Superstar*.



On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday and return home, the Philadelphia International Hotel organized a fashion show by Jordanian designer Jemon Ammar on Thursday. Deputizing for Her Majesty Queen Noor, HRH Princess Alla Al Faisal attended the event, which featured a colorful collection of casual and formal dresses for winter and summer. The audience was delighted with a special children's fashion presentation which included T-shirts designed for the King's birthday, bearing slogans such as "God Save Our King".



# IDEAL

Ideal Systems Co.

Apple Computer Authorized Dealer

Congratulates

## His Majesty King Hussein

on the happy occasion  
of his birthday



By Deniz Arslan

ISTANBUL — A British historian's claim threatens to wreck Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's plans to rebuild the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. According to new research by historian Stephanie Dalley, the gardens never were at Babylon but in Nineveh, 300 miles away.

If the claim is substantiated it will unsettle archaeologists and historians across the world, many of whom have lived by their conviction that the gardens once thrived in Babylon, 50 miles (72 km) south of Baghdad.

Countless books in numerous languages have built academic theses on the historical assumption that the gardens, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, were part of the ambitious building projects undertaken by King Nebuchadnezzar — and emulated by President Hussein amongst many of his successors.

The six other ancient wonders were the pyramids of Giza, the statue of Zeus at Olympia, the temple of Artemis at Ephesus, the mausoleum of Halicarnassus, the colossus of Rhodes and the great light house of Alexandria. The whole concept of these ancient 'wonders', of course, is unreliable too, because it relates only to monuments which were accessible to writers.

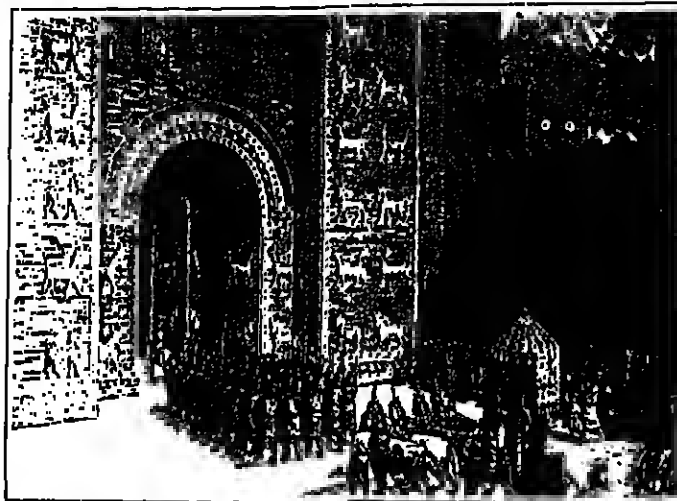
Hussein has embarked on ma-

## Hanging gardens: A controversial theory sprouts

for reconstruction and renovation at Babylon, much of it controversial, and vowed to rebuild the Hanging Gardens. The Gulf War has indefinitely delayed many of his plans but has not led to their cancellation.

Dr Dalley's discovery seems destined to throw the Iraqi government's plans further into disarray. In research soon to be published, she puts forward her belief that the gardens in fact were built much earlier than generally assumed, perhaps in the early seventh century BC — but not by King Nebuchadnezzar and not in Babylon.

Instead, she says, the gardens were the work of the Assyrians who were the Babylonians' sworn enemies and ruled from their capital city, Nineveh, 300 miles (433 km) north of Babylon. It was in Babylon that the gardens were



The Ishar Gate at the entrance to the ancient city of Babylon

built, probably by the Assyrian ruler Sennacherib, ironically the man most often credited with the destruction and pillage of Baby-

lon. The claim by Dr Dalley, who is a historian at Summerville College, Oxford University, will reinforce suspicion that the gardens were never at Babylon and that the legendary green space created by Sennacherib is the same as the hanging gardens.

A British Museum bas-relief sculpture depicting the gardens is attributed to the Assyrians and it quotes the Assyrian king as declaring the gardens a "wonder for all the world." Analysts argue that he wouldn't have boasted about the gardens if it was in enemy territory, Babylon.

Exactly how the gardens came to be known as "hanging" remains moot. The most plausible theory, according to the historians, is that the trees and plants were grown on a mountainside and irrigated by a water screw.

Dr Dalley challenges early references to the Hanging Gardens

being in Babylon. A third-century BC Greco-Babylonian writer, Berossus, who is believed to have made the earliest surviving reference to the gardens, is now considered unreliable. Although he referred to the gardens' existence, this now seems in doubt because some two hundred years earlier the Persians, who conquered the city in 539 BC, had already diverted the water supply of the royal palace and thus eliminated chances of any foliage surviving there.

Another early source of the Hanging Gardens theory, the second-century BC Levantine writer Antipater, is also considered unreliable. Although he is one of the first writers to actually list the seven wonders, he lived several hundred years after the gardens — whether in Babylon or Nineveh — had ceased to exist. Nineveh itself was destroyed by the Babylonians in 612 BC.

In her research Dr Dalley also notes that all surviving accounts of ancient Babylon by its contemporary writers failed to mention any gardens. In accounts attributed to Nebuchadnezzar, the king listed all his achievements but made no mention of gardens.

On the other hand, the first-century BC Greco-Sicilian historian, Diodorus Siculus, is quoted as saying the Hanging Gardens were built in Babylon by an Assyrian king who conquered the city. The first-century AD Roman historian Quintus Curtius Rufus also attributed the construction of the Hanging Gardens to an Assyrian king.

All this contrasts with the account of Strabo, the first-century BC Greek geographer, who described the gardens in terms identical to those used by Sennacherib to record his own gardens at Nineveh, and also described a screw system for raising water. Judging by the amount of gossip and hearsay that still manages to make its way into 'factual' accounts, the confusion over the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, Nineveh or wherever, is hardly surprising.

Deniz Arslan is a writer and researcher based in Istanbul.

12 NOVEMBER 1992

12 NOVEMBER 1992

THE STAR 11

## The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on  
Jordan  
Television  
from  
14 — 20  
November

### ENGLISH PROGRAM

#### SATURDAY

8:30 — America's Funniest Home Videos  
9:00 — Perspective  
9:30 — Solorday Variety Show  
10:00 — News In English  
10:20 — Feature Film, 'How To Murder Your Wife'. Starring Jack Lemmon, Vera Lisa. A comedy about a confined bachelor and a lady who tricks him into marriage.

#### SUNDAY

8:30 — Family Matters  
9:10 — Documentary  
10:00 — News In English  
10:20 — Law and Order

#### MONDAY

8:30 — Slits  
9:10 — A Fine Romance  
10:00 — News In English  
10:20 — Touch and Die. A powerful drama about a journalist who uncovers a worldwide nuclear cartel.

#### TUESDAY

8:30 — The Golden Girls  
9:30 — Mulgrel  
10:00 — News In English  
10:20 — When the Lion Roars

#### WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Saved By The Bell  
9:00 — Spot Light  
9:10 — Cinedo  
10:00 — News In English  
10:20 — The Cowry Breckool



The Cowry Breckool, Wednesday at 10:20

#### THURSDAY

8:30 — Uncle Buck  
9:10 — Civil Wars  
10:00 — News In English  
10:20 — Movie of the Week, 'Muriel Rose White'. Starring Nancy Cartwright. The true story about a woman who is wrongly admitted to an institution for the handicapped. In the institution she shows a remarkable gift for helping others, which finally becomes her life-time career.

#### FRIDAY

8:30 — Too Close for Comfort  
9:10 — Nonni and Manni  
10:00 — News In English  
10:20 — The Antagonists  
11:10 — Mr Benn

### FRENCH PROGRAM

#### SAMEDI

6:10 — Les Aventures du Bosco  
6:30 — Envoyé Spécial  
7:00 — News In French  
7:15 — Penetration

#### DIMANCHE

5:30 — Rêves D'enfants  
5:37 — Le Site de Xapalan  
7:00 — News In French  
7:15 — Vous Avez Dit Peinture

#### LUNDI

6:00 — Pif et Hercule  
6:10 — Les Chevaliers du Ciel  
7:00 — News In French  
7:15 — Magazine Sportif

#### MARDI

6:06 — Michel Vallant  
6:30 — La Famille Ramdan  
7:00 — News In French  
7:15 — Obsidienne

#### MERCREDI

6:00 — Des Trains pas comme les autres  
7:00 — News In French  
7:15 — Variétés

#### JEUDI

5:30 — Au Plaisir de Dieu  
7:00 — News In French  
7:15 — Les Images de L'Histoire

#### VENREDI

5:30 — Billy  
7:00 — News In French  
7:15 — Variétés

To advertise in  
The Star call  
648-298

## What's on in November at the Marriott

### French Week:

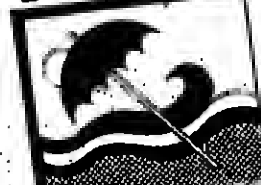
Under the patronage of HRH Prince Raed and Princess Mejda and in the presence of H.E. the French Ambassador & Mrs. Denia Bauehard, the French Cultural Center, Al-France and the Amman Marriott Hotel present the famous Chadian, Esquerra and his band in a jazz dinner concert November 18 at the Ballroom 8:00 p.m. JD 15++ and another performance November 19 at the Nightclub 9:30 p.m. entry fee JD 10++

Also featured this month is French culinary at Al - Mansaf Restaurant November 19 - 23. Lots of rich delicacies in store!

Leading French edition houses will be exhibiting children's books daily from November 19-23 from 12:00 - 8:00 p.m.

CENTRE CULTUREL FRANÇAIS

DEAD SEA



Bar B - Q

For a great outing, the Amman Marriott Hotel is organizing its first annual autumn Bar B - Q at the Dead Sea, November 28 JD 25. (Transportation on us). Buses leave the hotel at 6:00 p.m.

The only place in town where you can enjoy a meal of fresh Dover Sole at the Amman Marriott Hotel at both Al - Mansaf and Al - Wallima restaurants.

For information and reservation, please call the sales Department 660100.

AMMAN  
**Marriott**  
HOTEL

1992 A YEAR



OF CULTURE

MARRIOTT SERVICE

THE ULTIMATE LUXURY

Extend their best wishes to  
**His Majesty King Hussein**  
on His birthday

The management and staff of  
Munir Sukhtan Group  
Munir Sukhtan Co. Ltd.  
United Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Co. Ltd.  
Jordan Green Houses Manufacturing Co. Ltd.  
Household and Toiletries Manufacturing Co. Ltd.  
Arabian Office Automation (XEROX)  
Tayyeb Agricultural Co. Ltd.  
The Flower Club  
Amman Flower Bourse

## HOROSCOPE

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



Weekly Tip: Stay busy, do all your work during the week and you'll be able to relax later!

ARIES (21 March-19 April): If you're on a team, you'll win most during the first part of the week.  
TAURUS (20 April-20 May): You may feel like half your brain is missing. Do the easy stuff, you'll kick into gear later.  
GEMINI (21 May-20 June): All this week, you'll be likely than usual to get into trouble for asking questions.  
CANCER (21 June-22 July): You should be feeling pretty aggressive this week, which is good. Watch out for pitfalls.  
LEO (23 July-22 August): You'll feel energetic, but you may not be able to get much done. Some sort of disagreement at home, or with a friend, may leave you angry.  
VIRGO (23 August-22 October): You should be in pretty good shape all week long. However, you'll be under pressure.  
LIBRA (23 September-22 October): Go to club meetings, especially if you don't have a true love yet. You'll find at least one.  
SCORPIO (23 October-21 November): Expect trouble from a person in a position of authority. He or she will appear to enjoy ordering you around.  
SAGITTARIUS (22 November-21 December): Travel related to sports would be excellent. The bad news is that you may have to attend to your job.  
CAPRICORN (22 December-19 January): You'll be lucky in love all this week. Don't spend other people's money on anything but necessities.  
AQUARIUS (20 January-18 February): You could experience intense frustration the first of this week. Be patient.  
PISCES (19 February-20 March): The first of this week, it might seem like the boss has it in for you. He or she may only be on an ego trip.

## Dining Out



The First Class Hotel in  
Amman that has a  
Kitchenette in every  
room...

**DAROTEL**  
ماروتيل

Amman-Tel. 668193  
P.O. Box 9403-Fax 602434  
Telex 23888 DAROTEL JO  
Ideal Residence For  
Expatriates and  
Businessmen

**RESTAURANT CHINA**

The first & best  
Chinese Restaurant  
in Jordan  
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near  
Abiyah, Girls School  
Take-away service  
Open daily 12:00-3:30  
p.m.  
6:30-Midnight  
Tel. 620068

**The Tower**  
Restaurant  
40 Years Of Experience

Libanese Home D'ounges  
Oriental Cuisine  
European Specialities  
- Steak Tartar  
- Pepper Steak  
- Hot Mignon  
- Foie  
- Dessert, Croque au Zeste  
Tower Bldg, 23rd Floor  
For Reservation Tel: 834034/8

**Le Gourmet**  
Bourguignonne

The first haute cuisine  
menu designed for those  
who love fine food. It mirrors  
our special styles and  
taste levels.  
Warm, Hospitable.  
**Shepherd Hotel**  
for your reservations call  
639197

For A Superb Meal  
Think of

(Amigo Nabeel)

Oriental Appetizers &  
European Food.  
Located in a quiet  
central area  
1st circle, Jebel  
Amman  
Tel: 638031 & 622617

**Dos Palmiras**

Mexican  
Cuisine  
Tel. 654 20 5

Jebel Amman - First Circle



# Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Voyage officiel

## François Mitterrand porteur de nouvelles idées

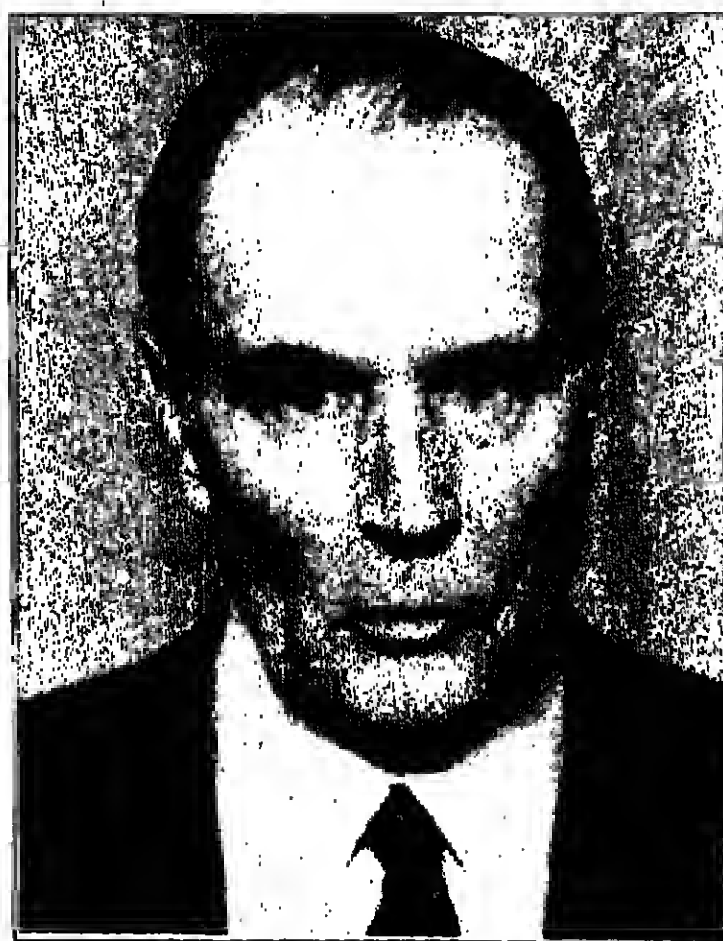
Le Président français, lors de sa visite en Jordanie les 27 et 28 novembre, affirmera sa différence. Il doit contribuer à une relance du processus de paix

"LE PRÉSIDENT Mitterrand évoquera certainement l'état de la négociation présente et ce que l'on peut faire dans ce cadre", affirme un officiel français. C'est clair: le voyage de François Mitterrand en Jordanie, les 27 et 28 novembre, qui sera suivi à une date indéterminée, ne sera pas purement protocolaire. Lors de sa visite, la deuxième en Jordanie depuis son arrivée au pouvoir en mai 1981, François Mitterrand rappellera les grands principes de la position française sur le processus de paix.

D'abord, il ne peut y avoir de solution sans l'application de la loi internationale et donc de la résolution 242 des Nations Unies. Pas de progrès possible sans l'auto-détermination du peuple palestinien. Ensuite, une solution ne peut être que "globale", elle ne doit pas résulter d'accords bilatéraux. "Nous pensons que dans le cadre du processus de paix actuel, il y a place pour ces principes et l'application de ces principes", affirme un officiel français.

### Différence

A travers ce voyage, la France entend affirmer sa différence, se démarquer du principal parrain de la Conférence de paix. "Nous n'avons pas l'ambition de remplacer les USA dans ce processus", confie un officiel français. "Nous n'avons pas l'intention de les concurrencer", ajoute-t-il. Pourtant, le Président Mitterrand n'hésitera pas à renouveler la demande française en vue d'obtenir un rôle plus important des Nations Unies dans ces négociations. Deuxième divergence: la France et l'Europe veulent que l'OLP soit reconnue en tant qu'organisation représentative des palestiniens. Une perspective qui n'a pas encore recueilli d'approbation des américains, ces derniers n'entretenant toujours pas de relations officielles avec la contrée. Nous essayons de convaincre les USA et le gouvernement israélien de dialoguer avec l'OLP, ce qui me semble de plus



François Mitterrand

en plus évident", dit un officiel français.

Depuis la Conférence de Madrid, le contexte a complètement

changement. Le gouvernement Shamir qui refusait catégoriquement toute implication de l'Europe, a

laissé la place à l'équipe Rabin. "Le nouveau gouvernement accepte notre participation au

**"Nous n'avons pas l'ambition de remplacer les USA dans ce processus" confie un officiel français. "Nous n'avons pas l'intention de les concurrencer"**

changé. Le gouvernement Shamir qui refusait catégoriquement toute implication de l'Europe, a laissé la place à l'équipe Rabin. "Le nouveau gouvernement accepte notre participation au

change, et sur sa politique au Proche-Orient. Yasser Arafat a simplement appelé Bill Clinton à suivre la ligne Bush. "Il n'y aura certainement pas de nouvelle position américaine formulée avant

mai 1993, il me semble impensable que lors de ces cinq mois, il ne se passe rien sur le processus de paix", affirme un officiel français. Ce qui laisse la place à un rôle "plus actif de l'Europe et de la France".

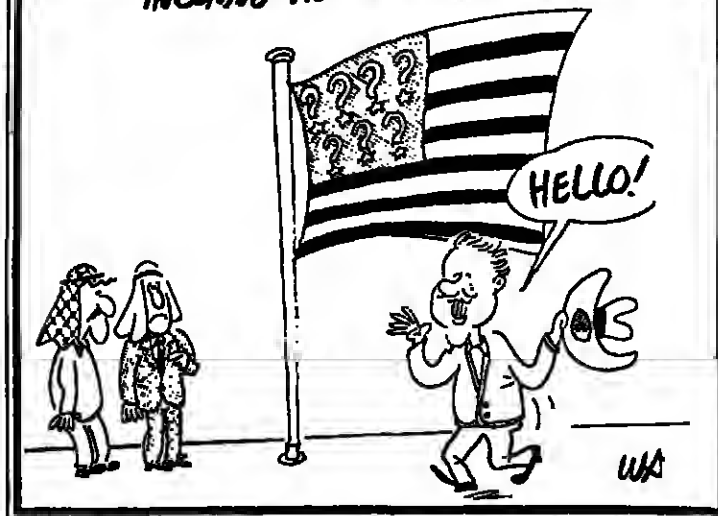
C'est la deuxième visite de François Mitterrand en Jordanie depuis son arrivée au pouvoir. "Ceci manifeste le caractère très spécial et très étroit des relations entre la France et la Jordanie" selon un officiel français. La Jordanie a un rôle essentiel à jouer dans le processus de paix. François Mitterrand en est convaincu. "Elle a un rôle central de par la longueur de ses frontières avec Israël... D'autre part, elle a accueilli une population d'origine palestinienne importante", confie un officiel français.

Cette visite présidentielle devrait également donner un nouvel élan aux relations bilatérales entre les deux pays. A cette occasion, un nouvel accord d'aide entre la France et la Jordanie sera annoncé. Il s'agit d'un prêt de 80 millions de francs sur 20 ans à 1% d'intérêt avec 10 ans de grâce. Celui-ci doit être consacré au secteur des télécommunications. "Outre notre part à l'aide de la CEB à la Jordanie, dont nous finançons le quart, la France apporte chaque année, depuis 4 ans, une aide bilatérale de l'ordre de 20 millions de dollars", affirme un officiel français.

Par ailleurs, un accord de coopération sera signé dans le domaine de la radio. Radio Jordanie devrait accueillir dans les semaines qui viennent des programmes en langue française. Autres priorités: l'archéologie, la médecine, l'éducation... Le Président Mitterrand doit rester 24 heures dans la capitale jordanienne. Son arrivée est prévue le 27 dans l'après-midi. Il devrait repartir pour la France le 28 en fin de matinée, suite à une conférence de presse commune avec le roi Hussein. L'opération pour annoncer de nouvelles idées franco-jordanien.

Francis Mazoyer

INCONNU AU PROCHE-ORIENT



Télex... Jordanie

**VERDICT** - 20 années de prison avec travaux forcés! Tel est le verdict de la Cour à l'encontre des députés islamistes Luthi Shbeilat et Yacoub Qarash pour appartenance à un groupe illégal armé. Ce dernier, Shabbab Al Nafeer Al Islami, qui possédait une impressionnante cache d'armes, comptait en vue de renverser le régime. Deux commerçants, membres de l'organisation ont été condamnés tous deux à 10 années de prison avec travaux forcés.

**REFUGIES** - "La délégation israélienne va tenter d'imposer ses vues aux Palestiniens" a affirmé Jawad Al Anani, chef de la délégation jordanienne avant de se rendre aux pourparlers multilatéraux sur les réfugiés à Ottawa. Sur cette question, la délégation jordanienne entend insister sur son attachement à l'application de la résolution 194 de l'Assemblée générale des N.U. Celle-ci prévoit le droit au retour ou à des compensations.

A VOIR...

**Semaine Française au Marriott**

**CONCERTS** - Deux concerts exceptionnels de jazz seront donnés à l'hôtel Marriott par le Quartet Christian Escoudé. Dîner concert le 18 novembre à 20h00. Concert le 19 novembre au Night-Club de l'hôtel.

**LIVRES** - Exposition-vente du 19 au 23 novembre à l'hôtel Marriott avec les dernières parutions des plus grandes maisons d'édition française pour enfants. Un cycle de conférences sera donné au Centre culturel français les 19, 21 et 22 novembre à 18h00 par les écrivains et éditeurs.

UNRWA

## L'Agence des Palestiniens

Depuis 1950, l'UNRWA est au chevet des réfugiés palestiniens présents dans tout le Proche-Orient. Gros-plan sur son expérience en Jordanie

L'HISTOIRE DE Matar Sager, responsable de l'information à l'UNRWA, est à l'image de milliers d'autres: parcours à la fois bon et exemplaire d'un réfugié palestinien de Jordanie. Issu d'une famille de Lod, il est né dans le camp de Jabal Hussain, l'un des quatre plus anciens de Jordanie.

Matar, oîné de la famille, a devant lui une vie toute tracée: études dans les écoles de l'UNRWA puis à l'université, travail dans le Golfe pour soutenir financièrement sa famille. Puis, après quelques années, retour en Jordanie et mariage. Un retour au "pays", mais aussi à l'UNRWA où il travaille depuis 1985.

### Premières urgences

Matar Sager, comme des milliers d'autres Jordaniens d'origine palestinienne, doit beaucoup à l'UNRWA. Cette agence des Nations Unies, consacrée uniquement aux Palestiniens, a été fondée suite à la création de l'Etat d'Israël et à la première guerre israélo-arabe en 1948.

Objectif: faire face à une situation de crise. Près de 900.000 Palestiniens se retrouvent sur les routes et se réfugient au Liban, en Syrie, à Gaza, en Égypte et surtout en Cisjordanie (qui deviendra peu après jordanienne). Partis dans l'urgence et sans rien emporter, ces personnes ont un besoin urgent d'aide.

En décembre 1949, il faut se rendre à l'évidence: résoudre le problème palestinien prendra du temps. L'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies décide donc de créer "United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East". L'UNRWA se met au travail dès le mois de mai suivant.

L'action de l'UNRWA est par définition temporaire. La résolution 194 des Nations Unies prévoit, au choix, le droit au retour ou à des compensations. L'UNRWA doit simplement gérer une situation de crise en attendant la normalisation. Ses préoccupations premières? Répondre aux besoins des: populations réfugiées en nourriture, en soins médicaux et en logement.

"Au début, explique Matar Sager, chaque famille s'est vu attribuer une tente. Puis, comme la situation semblait devoir durer, on a construit des petits blocs qui abritaient une famille entière". Les circonstances ont imposé quatre premiers camps de réfugiés à la Jordanie.

La guerre de 1967 et l'occupation par Israël des territoires arabes ont provoqué un



Priorité à l'éducation

nouvel exode. Environ 145.000 réfugiés et 240.000 personnes déplacées se sont rendus en Jordanie en l'espace de quelques jours (NDLR: les Palestiniens originaires de la Cisjordanie devenue jordanienne, rapatriés à l'est du Jourdain sont appelés "personnes déplacées": selon la définition adoptée par les Nations Unies, on ne peut être réfugié dans son propre pays).

### Soif d'éducation

Le scénario et les personnages du drame sont connus. L'UNRWA n'a plus qu'à reprendre son opération "premier secours". Cette nouvelle vague de population entrainera la création de six autres camps situés essentiellement dans le nord du pays. L'UNRWA doit faire face à une situation critique.

Orde au travail de l'UNRWA. La situation des réfugiés s'améliore peu à peu. Au début des années soixante, les populations des camps expriment de nouveaux besoins. "Le savoir, contrairement aux

terres et aux maisons, ne peut être occupé", s'exclame Matar Sager. L'UNRWA applique à la lettre cette maxime, refait d'une véritable soif d'éducation. Aujourd'hui, l'éducation mobilise plus de deux tiers du budget de l'UNRWA, financée en majorité par l'Europe et les USA.

En Jordanie, deux cents écoles se relaient dans des locaux réduits. L'une fait la classe le matin, l'autre l'après-midi. Les écoles de l'UNRWA comptent aujourd'hui 152.000 élèves (filles et garçons). Ce nombre n'était que de 133.000 il y a deux ans. Le retour massif des Palestiniens du Golfe a en partie contribué à cette hausse. Celle-ci dépend surtout de l'allongement d'un an de la scolarité dans les écoles de l'UNRWA, passant de neuf ans à dix ans.

Deux ceintres d'enseignement professionnel relèvent de l'UNRWA. Celui de Wadi Sir a une vocation manuelle et technique. Le centre d'Amman se consacre à la formation de professeurs, aux métiers du commerce, à l'administration et aux

professions paramédicales.

Des bourses sont accordées aux étudiants les plus méritants et leur permettent de s'inscrire à l'Université de Jordanie. "Chez les Palestiniens, l'éducation est un véritable investissement pour le futur", explique Matar Sager.

Des programmes spéciaux destinés aux femmes ont été mis en place: broderie, couture, dactylographie et, récemment, initiation au droit. Le but de ces activités: rendre les femmes moins dépendantes et les impliquer dans la vie socio-économique.

### Santé et société

L'UNRWA se préoccupe également du secteur de la santé. C'est sa deuxième priorité. L'accent est mis sur la prévention. Vaccins, éducation sanitaire, consultation pour les femmes avant et après la naissance de leurs enfants... Autant de services gratuits et disponibles dans les vingt-et-un centres de santé présents dans tous les camps. Des médecins spécialistes exercent à mi-temps dans ces établissements.

En cas d'hospitalisation, une prise en charge partielle des frais peut être assurée par l'UNRWA. Un million et demi de visites dans les centres médicaux de l'Agence sont enregistrées annuellement. Le retour des Palestiniens du Golfe a provoqué une augmentation de 10 à 20% de leur nombre.

Les aides de secours ne représentent plus, en Jordanie, que 10% du budget de l'UNRWA. Des crédits, avec des taux d'intérêt moyens sont accordés sur demande et après étude attentive des dossiers. Jusqu'en 1982, tous les réfugiés recevaient de la nourriture. Jusqu'en 1986, des livres et des fournitures scolaires...

Aujourd'hui, seuls les plus défavorisés bénéficient de cette aide spéciale qui couvre tous les besoins. Il existe 30.000 cas individuels: des veuves, des orphelins ou des hommes trop âgés pour pouvoir travailler et soutenir financièrement leur famille.

L'UNRWA a été récemment invitée à participer aux pourparlers multilatéraux sur les réfugiés. Nul doute que ses représentants feront entendre leurs voix. Matar Sager veut espérer: "L'UNRWA a une fonction symbolique importante. Tant qu'il l'Agence existe, cela prouve que les Palestiniens ne sont pas oubliés. Mais vivement que nous fermions boutique!"

Michèle Rieux.

L'EDITO

De Amine Chabouh

### L'appel

LA DEUXIEME partie du 7ème round des négociations de paix israélo-arabes a repris dans un climat pour le moins incertain. La future administration Clinton semble vouloir pencher du côté israélien alors que Bill n'a pas encore reçu la clé de la Maison blanche. Mise au point: afficher une sympathie de la part de l'une ou l'autre administration américaine envers tel protagoniste est aussi redoutable, aux yeux de la légitimité internationale que garder le silence face à certaines "erreurs".

Le cri lancé par les détenus du camp d'incarcération d'Ansar III devrait trouver un écho égal à la dimension du calvaire. Les prisonniers palestiniens crouissant dans le désert israélien, subissent depuis des années, les sévices les plus atroces.

La Croix rouge, ainsi que les Organisations humanitaires internationales, devraient répondre sans tarder à l'appel et intervenir auprès des autorités israéliennes. Notamment auprès du ministère de la Défense, parrain de ces tristement célèbres camps.

Si la demande en faveur de la démolition des camps reste sans réponse israélienne, il sera plus qu'urgent de s'efforcer d'améliorer les conditions de vie des milliers de prisonniers palestiniens. La lettre envoyée par les détenus d'Ansar III depuis le milieu du désert du Néguev, n'exprime qu'une seule revendication: un traitement égal à celui dont bénéficient d'autres détenus dans le système carcéral israélien.

Qu'Israël se vante d'être l'oasis démocratique dans le désert moyen-oriental, c'est son droit le plus strict. Mais les souffrances endurées par les taulards palestiniens au royaume du droit de faire voter ce mythe en éclats. A moins d'une intervention rapide en faveur d'Ansar III, le recours à la grève de la faim sera l'ultime issue. Les agissements humiliants quotidiens doivent cesser. Obliger les détenus à tourner le dos aux geôliers qui les comptent un par un, est une pratique qui évoque les heures noires du peuple juif.

Séparer les détenus de Gaza et de Cisjordanie, le manque de soins médicaux et les mesures punitives générales sont des faits répréhensibles à l'échelle internationale. Les démocrates américains, pionniers des Droits de l'homme, réagiront-ils à l'appel venu du Néguev?



## Would You Believe.....

The African and Asian snakehead fish wriggles over the ground going from pond to pond.

The average major-league baseball salary in 1992 is more than \$1 million a year.

Isaac Asimov, who died recently, wrote and published 477 books over his extremely productive lifetime.

An inventor at Mazda has made a 50-pound car that can fit into a suitcase. The vehicle, which can be put together in seconds and travel 12 miles on a tank of gas, is not for sale.

The world's population doubled from 2 billion to 4 billion between the years 1930 and 1975.

There are nearly 3.5 million people employed by the U.S. government at home and overseas.

## Solution

